

# History

Awarding Body: Students follow the AQA Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE courses

## Course Content and Examination Requirements

The aim of the course is to develop an enthusiasm and interest in History, acquire a greater understanding of how the past has been interpreted; explore the significance of people and events in the past and communicate effectively their skills and knowledge through an in depth study of the period.

Year 12	Year 13
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>AS Level Units</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1: Change and Consolidation 'Britain 1483 ~ 1529'</b></p> <p>This Unit provides an overview of developments in late medieval England.</p> <p>It is taught through 3 themes, focusing on Richard III; Henry VII and Henry VIII</p> <p>Among the topics studied will be: whether Richard III was the monster portrayed by Shakespeare, including the death of the Princes in the Tower; Henry VII and the dangers he faced in establishing the Tudor dynasty and the young Henry VIII, including his 'divorce' to marry Anne Boleyn.</p> <p>Unit 1 will be examined by a 1 hour 15 minutes module in the June of Year 12. There will be three two part questions, from which the students must choose two.</p> <p>Unit 1 is worth 50% of the total AS marks and 25% of the total A Level marks.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A2 units leading to a full Advanced GCE</b></p> <p><b>Unit 3: The State and People 'The Triumph of Elizabeth'</b></p> <p>This unit promotes understanding of change and continuity over a period of time.</p> <p>It is taught through 4 themes which chiefly focus on the reign of Elizabeth I</p> <p>Among the topics studied will be the Mid Tudor Crisis of 1547 ~ 1553; the dangerous early days of Elizabeth; dealing with enemies of the state, including Mary, Queen of Scots and the Catholic plots; the troubled later years and worry over the Succession.</p> <p>Unit 3 will be examined by a 1 hour 30 minutes essay based module in the June of Year 13. There will be three questions from which the student must choose two.</p> <p>Unit 3 is worth 30% of the total A Level marks.</p>
<p><b>Unit 2: Periods of Change 'Life in Nazi Germany 1933 ~ 1945'</b></p> <p>This Unit investigates life under the Nazis.</p> <p>It is taught through 4 themes, focusing on how the Nazis consolidated their power; their use of propoganda and indoctrination; co-ordination of society and the impact of war on people's lives. It does <b>not</b> include the Weimar Republic.</p> <p>Unit 2 will be examined by a 1 hour 30 minutes module in the January of Year 12. There will be three questions: one compulsory source based and two optional two part questions, from which the student must choose one.</p> <p>Unit 2 is worth 50% of the total AS marks and 25% of the total A Level marks.</p>	<p><b>Unit 4: Historical Enquiry</b></p> <p>This Unit is a piece of coursework which is based on a study of Civil rights in the USA from 1865 – today looking at the changes in American society and their impact on African-Americans. The Unit is marked by the History Department and externally moderated. It will be around 3500 words.</p> <p>Unit 4 is worth 20% of the total A Level marks.</p>

### **Comparison with GCSE**

There are some similarities with GCSE, since AS Unit 2 is a logical progression from the Paper 2 Depth Study, both in its source based approach and its content. The A2 Unit 4 is a more detailed, logical progression from GCSE coursework and provides both individual research and extended writing.

However, there are differences too. Unit 1 is sixteenth century political History and follows a more essay based approach and there is no coursework at AS. While Unit 2 is based on the G.C.S.E. 'Germany paper, it is just concerned with life in Germany under Adolf Hitler and does not involve a study of the politics of the Weimar Government. In addition, there are more opportunities for learning outside the classroom, with the three day residential visit to London in Year 12 and conferences and study days.

### **Entry Requirements**

The majority of AS students will have passed GCSE History with at least a 'B' grade. However, girls whose study of History ended in Year 9 may also be accepted onto the course, provided that they show an interest in History and attained at least an 'A' grade in English Language GCSE. This is very important as History is a literacy subject and requires good reading skills.

### **Relevance to Further Study and Careers**

Traditionally, History has been studied with a wide range of Arts subjects such as: English, Languages and Politics. However, because the Government is eager for students to follow a broad based curriculum at AS level, History, by its analytical and evaluative nature, combines well with various science options. Although some students do not intend to pursue History post AS, others will continue and sit the A2 examination. As a National Curriculum subject, History is very useful for students who are thinking about entering the teaching profession. It is also a popular choice for girls who hope to read Law, while others choose to read History at University. It is true that after graduation, many historians do not use their degree directly in the world of work. However, the skills that they have acquired make them very valuable and sought after employees in a whole variety of occupations. Among the many and varied careers followed by former "A" Level students are: pharmacy, accountancy, hotel and catering, travel and tourism as well as the more traditional teaching and Law. Several girls have also entered Medical School with History as one of their A2 subjects.

**Further Information: Miss J Wallis (Subject Leader Social Sciences)  
Miss A Warburton (Deputy Subject Leader Social Sciences)**